

3-m and the disk drive 4. As argued in the Remarks of the Amendment, these features of the present invention now more clearly recited in each of the claims are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record whether taken individually or in combination with each other.

In the July 11, 2005 Amendment, it was pointed that Chong (U.S. Patent No. 6,721,317) is not an appropriate reference to be used for anticipatory or obviousness type purposes to reject the claims of the present application being that the present application claims a priority date of February 2, 1999 which predates the effective date of March 4, 1999 of Chong. Therefore, the rejection of claims 53-55, 69-71, 77-79 and 85-87 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bleiweiss (U.S. Patent No. 5,841,997) in view of Chong and the rejection of claims 61-63 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bleiweiss in view of Langerman (U.S. Patent No. 6,751,680) and Chong are rendered moot since the combination fails.

To perfect Applicants' claim of priority, a certified copy of the Priority Document was filed on March 3, 2000 in the parent application Serial No. 09/495,868, filed February 2, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,542,954. To further perfect Applicants claim' of priority filed on even date is an English language translation of the Priority Document (JP 11-117670). With respect to the English language translation, Applicants hereby submit that they are well acquainted with the Japanese and English languages and that the English language translation is a full, true, accurate and faithful translation of

Japanese Patent Application No. 11-117670 (the priority document) into the English language.

Therefore, based on the above, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the above noted rejections of the claims under 35 USC §103(a) each being based in part on Chong.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 51-75, 77-83 and 85-88 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 51-75, 77-83 and 85-88 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (520.38161CX2).

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR &  
BRUNDIDGE, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl I. Brundidge', is written over a horizontal line.

Carl I. Brundidge  
Registration No. 29,621

CIB/jdc  
(703) 684-1120